

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 014156  
ORIGIN OES-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NSF-01 CG-00 DOTE-00 CIAE-00  
INR-07 NSAE-00 L-03 PM-05 /036 R

DRAFTED BY:OES:T/SELLIN  
EUR/NE:DJDNCHI  
APPROVED BY:EUR/NE:REWOODS  
EUR/NERDVINE  
NSF:SLAUGHTER  
ONR:MCGREGOR  
USCG:COMDR HEWELL

-----064704 192034Z /47/43

R 182247Z JAN 78  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY OSLO  
INFO SECDEF

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 014156

CORRECTED CY (PARA 2 LINE 8 OMITTED)  
E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: XQ, SV, NO, TGEN

SUBJECT: NANSEN DRIFT STATION PROJECT

" . "

REF: (A) OSLO 150; (B) OSLO 17

1. WE ARE WELL AWARE OF NORWEGIAN AND EMBASSY INTEREST IN  
SEEING NANSEN DRIFT PROJECT MOVE FORWARD EXPEDITIOUSLY.  
DEPARTMENT FULLY SHARES THIS VIEW. UNFORTUNATELY, WE ARE  
UNABLE TO REPORT PROGRESS IN RESOLVING KNOTTY FUNDING ISSUE  
WHICH HAS BECOME EVEN MORE PROBLEMATICAL SINCE PROJECT WAS  
LAST DISCUSSED WITH NORWEGIANS IN OCTOBER. COST EFFECTIVE-  
NESS OF THE PROJECT REMAINS A KEY ISSUE WITH NO U.S. TECH-  
NICAL AGENCIES WILLING TO COMMIT A SIZEABLE PORTION OF  
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THEIR BUDGETS TO SHARE COST WHEN TO DO SO COULD JEOPARDIZE  
OTHER IMPORTANT BUT UNRELATED PROJECTS DURING ANTICIPATED  
LIFE SPAN OF DRIFT STATION EXERCISE. ALTHOUGH PRESTIGE  
VALUE OF THE DRIFT STATION PROJECT IS UNDENIABLE, THE  
PROBLEM IS ONE OF PRIORITIES FOR THE US ARCTIC SCIENTIFIC  
COMMUNITY, WHOSE SUPPORT IS ESSENTIAL. MOREOVER, THE PURE-  
LY SCIENTIFIC BENEFIT WHICH WOULD BE DERIVED FROM NANSEN

DRIFT IS BEING CALLED INCREASINGLY INTO QUESTION.

2. THE DEPARTMENT HAS VIGOROUSLY REGISTERED ITS INTEREST IN THE PROJECT AND UNDERLINED THE OBVIOUS SIGNIFICANT FOREIGN POLICY IMPLICATIONS. WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE DRIFT

STATION PROJECT HAS MERIT AND DESERVES TO BE CARRIED OUT. IN AN INTERAGENCY CONTEXT, FACTORS SUCH AS ESCALATING COSTS HAVE OUTWEIGHED OUR BROADER POLICY OBJECTIVES. WE ARE NOW GIVING SERIOUS CONSIDERATION TO EXPLORING OTHER LESS OBVIOUS FUNDING SOURCES, INCLUDING THE POSSIBILITY OF INTERNATIONAL FINANCING.

3. DRIFT STATION PROJECT MAY GET ANOTHER SHORT REPRIEVE , IF DECOMMISSIONING OF US COAST GUARD ICEBREAKER BURTON ISLAND IS FURTHER DELAYED. CONTINUING PROBLEMS WITH REPLACEMENT VESSEL COULD REQUIRE AN EXTENSION OF BURTON ISLAND'S SERVICES THROUGH NEXT AUSTRAL SUMMER.

4. FYI: ONR REMAINS GREATLY INTERESTED IN PROJECT BUT DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE HAS BEEN ENJOINED BY CONGRESS FROM SPENDING ANY MONEY ON NANSEN DRIFT FOR THE PRESENT. NSF BELIEVES DRIFT STATION IS STILL WORTHY OF CONSIDERATION BUT MUST BE EXAMINED IN CONTEXT OF MOST EFFECTIVE WAY TO CONDUCT ARCTIC RESEARCH. END FYI.

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5. QUESTION OF WHETHER BRIEF STATUS REPORT TO NORWEGIANS IS DESIRABLE OR APPROPRIATE AT THIS TIME LEFT TO EMBASSY'S DISCRETION. YOU ARE AUTHORIZED TO DESCRIBE, IN GENERAL TERMS, CONTINUING FUNDING PROBLEMS AND TO ASSURE GON OF OUR UNDIMINISHED COMMITMENT TO PROJECT AND THAT DEPARTMENT WILL MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO BRING NANSEN DRIFT FROM PLANNING PHASE TO OPERATIONAL REALITY. YOU MAY ALSO INDICATE THAT ANY EXPLORATION OF "INTERNATIONAL FUNDING" WOULD INCLUDE NORWAY ALTHOUGH NO DECISION TO PURSUE THAT COURSE OF ACTION HAS BEEN MADE. CHRISTOPHER

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PROGRESS REPORTS, INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION, PROGRAMS (PROJECTS), FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 18 jan 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
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**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** NANSEN DRIFT STATION PROJECT \" .\"  
**TAGS:** TGEN, XQ, SV, NO  
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**Type:** TE  
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